



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 504

January Session, 2001

Substitute Senate Bill No. 60

Senate, April 30, 2001

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT SURVEYS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) Each local and regional board of education shall
2 use the same procedures to protect the rights of students and parents
3 as those described in 20 USC 1232h, for any survey the board of
4 education seeks to administer to its students regardless of whether the
5 survey is related to a program for which the board of education
6 receives federal funding.

7 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

The bill was rewritten for clarity and to comply with the intent of the committee.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Affected Agencies: Department of Education

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 60

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT SURVEYS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes uniformity in the administration of surveys to school children. Current federal law protects parents and students from questions of a sensitive nature on surveys related to federally funded programs, by giving students and parents notice of the types of questions on the survey, and giving students the option not to take it. The bill extends this protection to all surveys that Connecticut school boards distribute to their students.

Under the applicable federal statute, (20 USC §1232h) and this bill, students or, in the case of an unemancipated minor, their parents, must consent before the student participates in a survey with questions about:

1. political affiliations;
2. mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family;
3. sex behavior and attitudes;
4. illegal, antisocial, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have a close family relationship;
6. legally recognized privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
7. income, other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 10